

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery- Tranche 2

Planning Funds to Address Improved Resiliency to Infrastructure and Public Facilities
in Fairfield, New Haven, New London, and Middlesex Counties

Addendum: Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is CIRCA eligible to apply directly to DOH for funds under the NOFA? CIRCA is an institute within the University of Connecticut, which is a state agency (CIRCA faculty and staff are state employees).**

CIRCA is not an eligible applicant for the CDBG-DR planning grant. Applicants eligible for consideration under this NOFA include state agencies, units of local government and local councils of government (e.g. regional planning agencies). UCONN, however is an eligible applicant for this grant.

2. **What is the date when funds must be expended by for planning funds awarded from this NOFA? Or put differently for my planning purposes for proposing a work plan, by what date must work be complete that is using these funds?**

Planning Grant funds must be expended within two years of the date of the award. The Department of Housing will be announcing successful applicants in December of 2015 and contracts will be executed shortly thereafter. For planning purposes, if contracts are executed in January, 2016 then the project should be completed and funds fully expended by January, 2018.

3. **Is there any form of match associated with this grant? (In my review of the grant I did not see any mention of match discussed.)**

No, there is no match requirement for CDBG-DR Planning Grants.

4. **Would these funds be an eligible match for the Army Corps of Engineers Flood Study brought up by Congressman Himes?**
<https://himes.house.gov/press-release/himes-secures-federal-funding-study-fairfield-county-flooding>

Generally it is not possible to match federal funds with other federal funds. In the case of CDBG-DR program, you may be able to use CDBG-DR funds to match other federal funds for projects; however DOH suggests that you confirm eligibility with other federal programs you anticipate using.

5. **Are the grant funds available for just planning purposes, or for construction-related costs as well? The Notice of Funding speaks only to "planning" and "research" activities, but the actual application indicates the ability to use the funds for construction/reconstruction.**

CDBG-DR Planning funds can be used only for planning related activities. The application provides for a broad range of backgrounds leading up to construction or reconstruction. Many potential applicants have been involved in some level of planning because of the awareness of the need for a resiliency project, however funding has been limited. An example: Creating and Environmental Review Record (ERR) and then creating construction drawings that will lead to (but do not include) the construction or reconstruction activities.

6. If we are able to use the funds for construction, can we split the award up (e.g. use half of the funds for one project and half for another)?

No, as previously stated, CDBG-DR planning funds cannot be used for construction activities. Construction is not eligible cost.

7. The Notice indicates that the funds are to be used for assistance with improving the resiliency of "infrastructure and public facilities." How is "public facilities" defined? For example, could the funds be used for a Housing Authority project?

Yes, a Housing Authority is an eligible applicant as long as the intended purpose of this grant is for planning activities for infrastructure or public facilities projects. From the NOFA, the list of eligible activities include the following:

- ☐ Research to develop strategies to address the health and safety of homeless individuals and families and other vulnerable populations;
- ☐ Plans to address foreseeable mitigation and resiliency projects, particularly as they relate to critical infrastructure;
- ☐ Plans to avoid fuel shortages during disasters;
- ☐ Plans to address coastline resilience;
- ☐ Research to develop strategies for creating off-the-grid public facilities, homes and commercial businesses;
- ☐ Plans to address resiliency/mitigation of potable water or waste water systems; or
- ☐ Plans to address resiliency/mitigation of roads and drainage systems.

8. Would we be able to use the funds on a reimbursement basis (i.e. to cover costs associated with post-Hurricane Sandy projects)?

No, the CDBG-DR Planning funds cannot be used on a reimbursement basis to cover costs associated with post Hurricane Sandy recovery projects.

9. We are a 501 (c)(3) not for profit serving the homeless with a full spectrum of housing from emergency shelter to permanent supportive housing. We serve single women, families with children, people coping with HIV/AIDS, and people coping with mental illness through 11 different facilities. Would we be an eligible entity, able to apply for funding?

Yes, a 501 (c) (3) is an eligible applicant and would be able to apply for funding. The activity, nevertheless must be planning related to improve the resiliency of infrastructure or public facilities projects. (See answer to question 7).

10. If eligible, could we apply for actual costs of construction projects needed to solidify our infrastructure and address the needs of the vulnerable populations we serve?

No, the CDBG-DR Planning grants are only for planning related activities. Construction costs cannot be included.

11. Does the information in the FAQ listed on the :Second Tranche Infrastructure” web page also apply for CDBG-DR funds used for “Planning and Mitigation Resiliency Projects” and “Second Tranche Infrastructure?” I’m specifically interested in the text from the FAQ which states “CDBG-DR can be used as a match for any federal program as long as the funds are used for an eligible CDBG-DR activity.”

See response to Question 4 above.

12. If a project received a CDBG-DR Planning Grant in Tranche 1, is it possible to apply to continue to develop the project further in Tranche 2 by applying for a grant extension?

No, there are no grant extensions with additional funding available under this second tranche of funding. If an eligible applicant with an existing planning grant is interested to expand the parameters of their project then a new application will need to be submitted for review. All applications will be reviewed competitively based on the funding priorities listed in the NOFA.